

## Message Text

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44

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AMCONSLU HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CH, KS, KN

SUBJ: MIKI MISIT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF AUGUST 6

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. MEDIA COVERAGE AUGUST 7 CONCENTRATED ON CONTENTS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND JOINT PRESS RELEASE WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION FOR ASIAN PEACE, AND KOREAN SITUATION. PRESS COMMENTARY PICKED UP MIKI'S PHRASE AND DESCRIBED WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS AS STEP TOWARD "MATURE" U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. IN SATELLITE PRESS CONFERENCE, MIKI PRONOUNCED HIMSELF VERY SATISFIED WITH SUMMIT RESULTS, BUT WAS CRITICIZED FOR EMBARRASSING FONMIN AND PRESS CORPS BY HOLDING UNSCHEDULED AUGUST 5 MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE AUGUST 7 WAS DOMINATED BY NEWS ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND JOINT PRESS RELEASE. STABILIZED U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TOWARD ASIAN PEACE.  
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SECOND PLACE IN COVERAGE WAS PRESS RELEASE PHRASE ON IMPORTANCE OF SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA TO ASIA--INCLUDING JAPANESE--PEACE AND STABILITY, WHICH PRESS CALLED "NEW KOREA CLAUSE." PRESS ALSO NOTED MUTUAL DESIRE FOR RENEWED NORTH/SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE, NEED

TO PRESERVE PRESENT CEASE-FIRE ARRANGEMENTS, AND PRESIDENTIAL PROMISE NOT TO WITHDRAW U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. FINALLY, PRESS CITED STRENGTHENED U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION ON OIL AND FOOD. REITERATION OF U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO JAPAN WAS NOTED CLEARLY BUT NOT PROMINENTLY.

2. SPRINKLED THROUGH THE COVERAGE WERE THREE SPECIFICS OF INTEREST:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S COMMENT THAT A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN MIKI AND THE PRESIDENT, (2) THE SECRETARY AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA ARE LIKELY TO MEET AROUND THE END OF SEPTEMBER, AND (3) THE U.S.-JAPAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO MEET NEXT YEAR.

3. COMMENTARY IN NEARLY ALL PAPERS ECHOED MIKI'S ASSERTION THAT A NEW STAGE OF MATURITY IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. MAINICHI (NEWSPAPER) POINTED UP MIKI'S CONCERN WITH SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN FORM IN HIS CONVERSATIONS AND HIS HOPE THAT A U.S.-U.K. TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP MIGHT DEVELOP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN. ASAHI (NEWSPAPER), ON THE OTHER HAND, CONCENTRATED ALMOST SOLELY ON SECURITY ISSUES, PARTICULARLY "STRENGTHENED" U.S.-JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA LINK, AND WAS CRITICAL OF MODEST ATTENTION TO DIALOGUE WITH NORTH KOREA. EDITORIALS ON SUMMIT MEETINGS HAVE NOT YET APPEARED. NOR HAS THERE BEEN COVERAGE OF MIKI'S WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB SPEECH.

4. IN THIRTY-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE BROADCAST TO JAPAN BY SATTELITE, PRIMIN MIKI APPEARED BUOYANT AND PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS. IRRITATED JOURNALISTS QUESTIONED MIKI SHARPLY ABOUT HIS UNSCHEDULED AUGUST 5 CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT WHICH EMBARRASSED BOTH FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND REPORTERS THEMSELVES. DEALING WITH LATTER'S ATTEMPT TO FIND SOMETHING SINISTER IN IT, MIKI CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING OLY THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL TOPICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND, TOWARD THE END, THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A FIVE-NATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT. ASSESSING WASHINGTON RESULTS, MIKI STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS NEW STAGE OF U.S.-JAPAN FRANKNESS AND COOPERATION BEYOND THE SET PIECE DISCUSSIONS AND COMMUNIQUE OF THE PAST. JOURNALISTS' PREOCCUPATION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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"SECRET MEETINGS," AND THEIR SHARP QUESTIONS ABOUT SOMBER SECRET AGREEMENTS RELATING TO SOUTH KOREA PROMPTED MIKI TO LECTURE THEM SPIRITEDLY. THERE WAS NOTHING, MIKI SAID--AND REPEATED--THAT WAS THRUST UPON JAPAN IN THE DEFENSE FIELD OR ANY OTHER AREA. THERE WERE NO SECRET AGREEMENTS AT HIS UNSCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OR AT ANY OTHER TIME. HIS CONCERN, AND THAT OF U.S. LEADERS, WAS SIMPLY HOW TO AVOID A CLASH IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA. HE ADMITTED THE U.S.-JAPAN MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WAS RELATED TO THE SITUATION IN KOREA BECAUSE U.S. BASES IN JAPAN MIGHT BE USED TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA. BUT, MIKI SAID, JAPAN MIGHT SAY YES OR NO TO COMBAT USE OF U.S. BASES IN AJAPAN DEPENDING UPON CIRCUMSTANCES--AS THE REPORTERS WELL KNEW.

5. WARMING TO HIS SUBJECT, MIKI SAID IT WAS TIME FOR JAPAN TO MOVE BEYOND ITS INFERIORITY COMPLEX TOWARD THE U.S. HE SAID ONLY THE U.S. AND USSR ARE CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP--AND THAT IS NOT CERTAIN. ALL OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN NATO AND JAPAN, MUST RELY ON OTHERS. THUS WE ARE NOW IN AN ERA OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND JAPAN NEED HAVE NO SENSE OF INFERIORITY ON THIS SCORE. HE HOPED THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES. THE TIME HAS COME, HE CONCLUDED, FOR JAPAN TO HAVE A REALISTIC AND UNEMOTIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S.

6. DESPITE MIKI'S RHETORIC, HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSTION PARTIES--EXCEPT FOR DSP--WHO SPOKE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE QUICKLY ZEROED IN ON "SECRET CONVERSATIONS," "SECRET AGREEMENTS," AND A "STRENGTHENED" U.S.-JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA DEFENSE STRUCTURE. THEY PROMISTED A THOROUGH PROBE OF THESE SUBJECTS IN THE UPCOMING DIET SESSION.

7. COMMENT. MIKI WAS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH HIS WASHINGTON VISIT AND APPEARED MORE THAN WILLING TO TAKE ANY FLAK ASSOCIATED WITH IT. MOREOVER, THE JAPANESE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE NATURALLY RECEPTIVE TO HIS ASSERTIONS THAT THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP HAS MATURED SIGNIFICANTLY. GIVEN THE SUSPICIONS ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT SAY ABOUT KOREA BEFORE HE LFT TOKYO, THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE STRIKES US AS A SOLUTION WHICH SUITS OUR NEEDS AND LEAVES BOTH LDP HAWKS AND DOVES, IF SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED, GREATLY RELEIVED. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE IN THIS GENERALLY FAVORABLE CONTEXT THAT MIKI DID NOT PREPARE HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE JAPANESE PRESS CORPS  
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FOR HIS UNSCHEDULED VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT. ON TELEVISION, FONMIN MIYAZAWA APPEARED UNHAPPY AND EMBARRASSED; REPORTERS' QUESTIONS CLEARLY POINTED UP THEIR IRRITATION AND AROUSED ALMOST CERTAINLY UNFOUNDED SUSPICIONS. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT OVERSHADOW MIKI'S ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT IT WILL LINGER ON LEAVING A BAD TASTE IN MANY IMPORTANT MOUTHS.  
SHOESMITH

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